

George Washington to Thomas H. Marshall, March 16, 1770, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

***To THOMAS H. MARSHALL**

March 16, 1770.

Sir: In reply to your favour of the 12th., I have only to say, that I am equally sorry we should misapprehend each other's Intention's concerning the agreement we entered into at my House; but since we have done so, in respect to one part of it, and since I am under no sort of apprehension of having the mistake rectified by giving you possession of any part of Mr. Alexander's Land adjoining you, or the whole if required next year (unless a death should intervene to prevent it) I should be glad to know, if, in the meantime you will suffer me to go on and get the remainder of my Mill frame in the place I was cutting (there wanting but little to compleat the Work as I got the chief part of the Scantling for it last Summer from my own Land) upon conditions of my paying you the customary price for all the Timber I may take off of these slipes in case I should not have it in my power to put you in Possession of as much of Mr. Alexander's Land as these shall measure, at the determination of the present year?

Mr. Alexander at the sametime he mentioned to me what he had wrote to you, and the conversation that passd between you and his Tenant (tho different from what you Inclosed); also told me, that by some Law, or custom in Maryland relative to Landlords and Tenants that if the Landlord neglected before some certain day to warn of the Tenant that it was optional in the latter to obey the notice afterwards or not it may be impractacable therefore now, for him to give you possession of any part of the Tenanted Land, till the expiration of

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the present year, but there can be no doubts of his doing it then; and therefore, as these slipes of Land can never be of more essential Service to me than at this time, and as I see little, indeed no difference it can make to you to give me the use of them at this time or 8 or nine Months hence. I shoud be very glad if you coud oblige me therein, upon the conditions above mentioned especially, as it will be only doing that now which I really thought was done before.

I woud be much obliged to you also for a Copy of the Plat and Courses of Mr. Alexanders Land pointing thereon the piece you want to get from him.